

# NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

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*All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.*

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

## Re-establishment of Committee on Domestic Terrorism: Statement by Attorney General Eric Holder

June 3, 2014

"[T]he threat posed by Islamic extremist satellite groups—from al Qaeda affiliates in Yemen, to al-Shabaab in Somalia—and individuals inspired by their violent ideology remains a significant concern....

"But we also must concern ourselves with the continued danger we face from individuals within our own borders who may be motivated by a variety of other causes from anti-government animus to racial prejudice. To that end, I am announcing today that the Department of Justice is reconstituting a committee on domestic terrorism that was first established nearly 20 years ago under my predecessor, Attorney General Janet Reno, in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing....The revived group—known as the Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee—will be comprised of leaders from components within the Department of Justice, and co-chaired by a member of the U.S. Attorney community, the National Security Division, and the FBI.

"This committee will coordinate closely with U.S. Attorneys and other key public safety officials across the country to promote information-sharing and ensure an effective, responsive, and organized joint effort."

Comment by Jesse Walker, reason.com: Contrary to at least one early report the revived committee's purview will not include incidents like last year's Boston Marathon bombing, since the men accused of that crime appear to have been influenced by foreign groups. The focus will be on

purely homegrown activities, according to a spokesman for the Justice Department. In other words, Washington's terror-hunting apparatus intends to focus more attention on the domestic front. What exactly that will mean in practice remains to be seen, but civil libertarians are wary. Gabriel Rottman, the American Civil Liberties Union's legislative counsel on the First Amendment, has already condemned the committee. "Given the already lenient standards for when the government can launch an investigation," he tells me, "the announced task force is both unnecessary and an invitation to investigate Americans because of the beliefs they hold, not because of any wrongdoing."

## Open Letter to AG Holder

Eric Holder, Attorney General  
(Currently held in contempt of Congress) 5 June 2014

Dear Eric,

It has been a little more than five years since I wrote my first open letter to you on the eve of a threatened ATF raid on an innocent man, warning you that there would be "No More Free Wacos". A few months later, I wrote you a second open letter, "In re U.S. vs. Olofson" further explaining the dangers of regime misadventure against the armed citizenry.

You had your free Waco back in the Nineties. But this is not the Nineties, Eric, even though with your unholy resurrection this week of that Frankenstein monster, the Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee, you seem to think it is.

This is no longer the Nineties, when the Clinton regime still had a presumption of both competence and lawful behavior. You no longer have

either with a significant portion of the population. You ought to be smart enough to see that, but your resurrection of Janet Reno's dead COINTELPRO/PATCON-clone monster tells me that you're not.

Oh, I read your statement. You claim that this is about preventing more Jihadi incidents like the Boston Marathon bombing. But we both know that is a black herring, if I may select the color of the Jihadi flag.

So we know who this outdated move is pointed at, don't we? And it has nothing to do with Jihadis, "homegrown" or otherwise.

Indeed, as Judge Napolitano has pointed out, your vaunted FBI/NSA/DHS juggernaut can't seem to catch any real terrorists, preferring to entrap gullible fools into playing the part.

The Washington Times reported the other day that you were considering using the U.S. military to work your regime's will upon the Bundys out in Nevada. The very fact that you and your tyrannical ilk were considering it tells me that you are absolutely out of touch with the new reality.

There will be no more free Wacos, nor believable Reichstag Fires, and if your regime ever does succumb to the temptation to use the military on your own people it will be swept away into the dustbin of history.

You may have high hopes for the retrieval of your bureaucratic fortunes with this reanimation of the Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee, but the villagers will be watching this time for the operational reappearance of Janet Reno's Frankenstein, with pitchforks, torches, and (not accidentally thanks to your boss) plenty of firearms in their hands

when it does. Please thank Barack for that the next time you see him.

Have a nice rest of your tenure as our first officially contemptible attorney general.  
Mike Vanderboegh  
PO Box 926  
Pinson Al 35126

Ed.: Congress on June 28, 2012 voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for failing to provide key information pertaining to Operation Fast and Furious, making Holder the first sitting Cabinet member to be held in contempt.

### **Book Review: *To Shake Their Guns in the Tyrant's Face: Libertarian Political Violence and the Origin of the Militia Movement* by Robert Churchill**

After the bombings of Oklahoma City in 1995, most Americans were shocked to discover that tens of thousands of their fellow citizens had banded together in homegrown militias. Within the next few years, numerous studies and media reports appeared revealing the unseen world of the American militia movement, a loose alliance of groups with widely divergent views. Not surprisingly, it was the movement's most extreme voices that attracted the lion's share of attention.

In reality the militia movement was neither as irrational nor as new as it was portrayed in the press, Robert Churchill writes. What bound the movement together was the shared belief that citizens have a right, even a duty, to take up arms against wanton exercise of unconstitutional power by the federal government. Many were motivated to join the movement by what they saw as a rise in state violence, illustrated by the government assaults at Ruby Ridge, Idaho in 1992, and Waco, Texas in 1993. It was this perception and the determination to deter future state violence, Churchill argues, that played the greatest role in the growth of the American militia movement.

Churchill uses three case studies to illustrate the origin of some of the core values of the modern militia movement: Fries' Rebellion in Pennsylvania at the end of the eighteenth century, the Sons of Liberty Conspiracy in Civil War-era Indiana and Illinois, and the Black Legion in Michigan and Ohio during the Depression. Building on extensive interviews with militia members, the author places the contemporary militia movement in the context of these earlier insurrectionary movements that, animated by a libertarian interpretation

of the American Revolution, used force to resist the authority of the federal government.

A historian of early America, Robert H. Churchill has published numerous articles on American political violence and the right to keep and bear arms. He is currently Associate Professor of History at the University of Hartford.

"Churchill provides an enlightening analysis of the ideology, structure, and purpose of the militia movement. Where much scholarship has categorized it as a cohesive, single movement, Churchill begins the process of unraveling its complexity." ---Steve Chermak, Michigan State University

"*To Shake Their Guns in the Tyrant's Face* addresses an area---the relationship of American political violence to American ideology---that is of growing importance." -- David Williams, Indiana University

### **Armed, Locked and Loaded: The Worst and Most Intimidating Gun States**

By Leonard Steinhorn

No one should feel safe in Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana and Mississippi.

It is legal in these states for people with absolutely no training to walk around armed and to carry their guns openly in the streets.

It is legal in these states to bring loaded guns into gambling establishments, sporting events and restaurants that serve alcohol. It is legal in these states to carry weapons into stores and shopping malls, and in some cases even onto college campuses and into bars and houses of worship.

In all of these states, it is legal to shoot first and claim self-defense much the way George Zimmerman did with Trayvon Martin and hundreds of others have done in less publicized cases

Look at the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports: We are 30 percent more likely to die from guns used in arguments and alcohol-related conflicts than from robberies, burglaries, drug crimes and gangs.

Of course, a gun can maim or murder in any state. But it's the states with higher population densities and virtually no restrictions on who can obtain a gun and walk around armed that pose the greatest threat.

No one should feel safe in these states.

Over the last four decades, guns have claimed the lives of about

1.4 million Americans -- more than all the Americans who have died in wars.

It is time to stand up to the gun lobby and tell the states most in their thrall exactly what you think: I don't feel safe in your state. Sign this petition and make your voice heard.

Leonard Steinhorn is Professor of Communication at American University

-- Huffington Post March 21, 2014

### **Self-preservation at its best**

The principles of self-defense cover much more than unarmed combat or the use of a firearm -- they include the avoidance approach, which has to be based on good situational awareness. Thus actually avoiding confrontation in the first place if possible is by far the more desirable option! This is self-preservation at its best.

So, what is 'situational awareness'? It has often been described with a color labeling. First is the white state where a person is essentially totally unaware of their surroundings and events - the 'head in the sand' state, or tunnel vision if you like. Then we have yellow which is probably the ideal - a total awareness of surroundings but without any stress or paranoia, just a basic broad alertness. The next stage is orange, the notion that 'something ain't right', or the famous 'gut feeling' -- generally this not something to ignore.

Finally is condition red, which means things are definitely serious and some action needs to be taken, the first choice being avoidance, to 'get out of Dodge'. Otherwise the action has to be geared ideally to finding cover and maintaining distance.

"Condition white" can be literally dangerous, in particular if someone is perhaps walking in a less than desirable area and radiating a strong signal which can say "I am a victim, choose me". Those who prey on others are usually less interested when an individual seems alert and confident.

"Condition yellow" is not difficult to achieve and is highly recommended as a complete way of life.

Those of us fortunate to have all senses intact just need to learn to use them better.

Let us look first at the visual aspect. Most folks with reasonable visual acuity have good peripheral vision and this extends to all but 90° to both sides. With minimal practice, it is possible to be looking ahead and yet be processing the image information

from both sides in quite some detail. Thus, while going about our everyday lives, it is possible to be aware with minimal effort of what is around us, and this way be able to spot something that may seem out of place without making it too obvious.

It can be important to not necessarily look directly towards a perceived threat at first, because that gives away one's awareness of said threat while applying thinking time, and on occasions can actually spark confrontation with someone who thinks you are being 'disrespectful' by looking at them! That said, the situation can arise when a direct look - casual in nature and brief - can actually signal to a possible attacker that they have been seen - enough perhaps to make them less interested in closing in.

In addition to peripheral vision there are some other visual ploys worth using, particularly in an urban environment. One classic is use of reflection. Imagine being able to stop and ostensibly do some 'window shopping' - the ideal time to assess what the reflection shows behind you. Car windows can be useful as well. I know of one case where someone used their Zippo lighter as a mirror to look behind without seeming obvious.

Now, using hearing to good effect. One valuable asset, is the ability to use 'selective hearing' to switch attention between different sound inputs. With only a little practice it is possible to switch between inputs at will, selecting just the sound information desired and so pick out something out of place.

Use MP3 players with caution! Someone listening to loud music while walking, running, cycling is to some degree 'insulated' from the sounds around them. Quite enough to make hearing something like footsteps for example all but unlikely.

In conclusion, avoidance of situations is by far the most desirable approach to keeping safe and to this end, good awareness of the environment is essential. No amount of skill with martial arts or a firearm is worth having to put into play when there is a chance to escape. Stay alert and stay safe.

-- Chris Bodine, JFPO contributor 2014

## **Idaho Nullifies All Future Federal Gun Control**

From Ben Swann:  
On Thursday, Idaho

Governor Butch Otter (R) signed a bill, which would effectively nullify future federal gun laws, by prohibiting state enforcement of any future federal act relating to personal firearms, firearms accessories or ammunition.

S1332 passed the house by a vote of 68-0 and the senate by a vote of 34-0. Alaska and Kansas have also passed similar laws.

Erich Pratt, Director of Communications for Gun Owners of America, said "By signing this nullification bill into law, Idaho has joined an elite class of states that are telling the feds to 'get lost' — especially when it comes to unconstitutional gun control infringements."

The key text of the legislation provides that: any official, agent or employee of the state of Idaho or a political subdivision thereof who knowingly and willfully orders an official, agent or employee of the state of Idaho or a political subdivision of the state to enforce any executive order, agency order, law, rule or regulation of the United States government as provided in subsection (2) of this section upon a personal firearm, a firearm accessory or ammunition shall, on a first violation, be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) which shall be paid into the general fund of the state...

The strategy uses the anti-commandeering doctrine, which was set down by the Supreme Court to protect the Tenth Amendment by preventing Congress from commandeering state officers in the enforcement of a federal regulatory scheme.

-- conservativetribune.com March 2014

## **Jury Nullification: Why Every American Needs to Learn This Taboo Verdict**

By Kevin Matthews

Did you know that, no matter the evidence, if a jury feels a law is unjust, it is permitted to "nullify" the law rather than finding someone guilty? Basically, **jury nullification** is a jury's way of saying, "By the letter of the law, the defendant is guilty, but we also disagree with that law, so we vote to not punish the accused." Ultimately, the verdict serves as an acquittal.

Haven't heard of jury nullification? Don't feel bad; you're far from alone. If anything, your unfamiliarity is by design. Generally, defense lawyers are not allowed to even

mention jury nullification as a possibility during a trial because judges prefer juries to follow the general protocols rather than delivering independent verdicts.

Surprisingly, the Supreme Court has routinely agreed that judges have no obligation to inform juries about jury nullification. Paradoxically, jury nullification is permitted to exist as an option to all juries, yet this option cannot be discussed in most courtrooms.

A few years ago, Julian Heicklen handed out pamphlets to passersby on jury nullification to people outside of a federal courthouse. While the former professor was merely attempting to educate people about how the jury system works, he was charged with jury tampering. The prosecution labeled Heicklen "a significant and important threat to our judicial system," but the judge ultimately disagreed and dismissed the case. Nonetheless, the fact that this case went to court at all shows how those in the legal system are willing to intimidate those who vocalize this loophole.

Jury nullification is undoubtedly feared because of its ability to upset the system. A jury that considers drug laws to be outrageous can nullify. A jury that is aware of the mass inequality in incarceration rates and believes a defendant was targeted via racial profiling can nullify. A jury that believes a harmless defendant is a victim of the prison industrial complex rather than a perpetrator can nullify. This counter-verdict exists so that citizens can right the wrongs inherent in our supposed "justice" system.

Of course, as the *New York Times* points out, jury nullification hasn't always been used to "do good." Historically, racist southern juries have nullified cases involving hate crimes and overly optimistic juries have nullified instances of police brutality, unwilling to fault police officers. However, if you agree that an *informed* jury can produce the correct verdict, nullification remains a valuable tool in the pursuit of justice.

Jury nullification would be helpful in a case like the recently publicized trial of Cecily McMillan. After having her breast groped from behind by a police officer, McMillan, an Occupy Wall Street activist, reflexively elbowed backward and was subsequently charged with assaulting an officer. After the judge suppressed relevant evidence, the jury ultimately felt compelled to render a guilty verdict, but its members were surprised to later learn that that

*In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.* – Mark Twain

verdict carried a potential seven-year sentence. Nine out of twelve jurors later wrote a letter to the judge urging him not to send McMillan to prison. Had these jurors known about jury nullification, they could have initially said, "Technically guilty, we supposed, but COME ON!" and not left her subject to harsh, unwarranted punishment.

It's absurd that such an immense power remains a secret to jurors. Essentially, it's a crapshoot as to whether a juror has prior knowledge of the ability to nullify – an unfair fate given what's at stake. Whether or not you choose to exercise the option of jury nullification the next time you serve on a jury is up to your own discretion, but all jurors should at least be aware that this option is available to them. Spread the word.

– truth-out.org/opinion 25 May 2014

Ed.: for more on jury nullification contact the Fully Informed Jury Association, P.O. Box 5570, Helena, Montana 59604

## Putting Gun Death Statistics in Perspective

By Dustin Hawkins

There are roughly 32,000 gun deaths per year in the United States. Of those, around 60% are suicides. About 3% are accidental (less than 1,000). About 34% (just over 11,000 in 2011) make up the remainder. Sometimes the 32,000 and 11,000 figures are used interchangeably by gun control advocates. Clearly, the 32,000 figure is a far more dramatic number and is often used for impact.

To hear gun control advocates speak, one would be led to believe that gun violence is a widespread problem whereby the mere existence of a gun is as much a problem as the person who intends to wield it. But the reality is that 80% of gun homicides are gang-related. According to the Center for Disease Control, gang homicides accounted for roughly 8,900 of 11,100 gun murders in 2011. There were just 2,200 non gang-related firearm murders in a country of over 300 million people and 250 million guns.

The 2,200 figure is perhaps the most relevant statistic given that the gun control laws are specifically targeted to this segment. If the government were interested in stopping gangs - and as a result also stopping the major contributor of gun violence - the gun laws would be more targeted. Yet most gun control legislation would do little-to-nothing to slow the growing gang problem. Most of the gun laws are aimed at a segment of the population

that is outside of the gang culture and would likely do little to stop any of the violence.

Suicide is often a secondary reason gun control advocates use for wanting to "control" guns. It is true that roughly half of suicides in America are done by use of a firearm. Gun control advocates argue that suicides are often a momentary impulse and the availability of a gun makes people more likely to act on those impulses. Japan is probably the opposite of the US in regards to a gun culture. With few guns and gun-related deaths, Japan is one of the most heavily cited countries by gun-control advocates. But the suicide rate in Japan is more than twice the US' suicide rate. The US suicide rate is about the same as Great Britain, Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, and Iceland and well below France and Greenland. In reality, suicide rates seem to have little to do with the availability of guns.

The reason that horrible tragedies like the Newton, Connecticut and Aurora, Colorado shootings are so gut-wrenching and shocking is rooted in a reality that such incidents are extremely rare. Unfortunately, politicians often aim to stir up emotional reactions and exploit these tragedies for political gain. With the incredible number of statistics that get thrown around and abused, it's important to sometimes step back and actually look at what the numbers say. Are the gun laws being proposed anything more than window dressing and "feel-good" legislation that will have little actual impact? Should more efforts actually be used in a results-oriented way, targeting the actual concentrated areas where gun crime occurs? Politics is often a process-based and not results-oriented exercise, where "doing something" is often rewarded more than actually ever accomplishing anything.

-- About.com March, 2013

## Islam: Religion of Bigots

By Robert Spencer – Part I

"Islam has a proud tradition of tolerance," proclaimed President Barack Obama during his appeal to the Muslim world from Cairo on June 4, 2009. "We see it in the history of Andalusia and Cordoba during the Inquisition. I saw it firsthand as a child in Indonesia, where devout Christians worshipped freely in an overwhelmingly Muslim country."

Unfortunately, this far from the truth. Even during what is generally considered to have been the Golden Age of Islamic "tolerance," it is more accurate to say that non-Muslims were

tolerated as second-class subjects rather than as respected as equals. They were regarded as *dhimmis*, whose residence was conditioned on their submission to humiliating regulations that ensured their subjugation to the Muslim population. They had to pay an onerous special tax (*jizya*) mandated by the Qur'an (sura 9:29) and wear special marks identifying their second-class status.

Moreover, unlike Christendom, whose leaders have issued apologies for past mistreatment of Jews and condemned the scriptural justifications for that mistreatment, authorities in the Muslim world from Muhammad's day to this have never thought twice about referring to Jews as "apes and pigs" (Qur'an 2:63-65; 5:59-60; 7:166), or regarding them by God's will for destruction. Today prominent Muslim leaders, including Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the world's most prominent Muslim cleric, are calling on the faithful to finish the extermination of the Jews that Hitler began.

In countries where Muslims are a small minority, as in the U.S., there is a surface plausibility to Obama's claim. Muslim groups have so far accommodated themselves to a democracy whose secular faith is one of diversity and tolerance. But where Muslims constitute a majority, the face of Islam looks quite different. In Saudi Arabia Christian churches and Bibles are prohibited. No Christian or Jew is allowed to enter the cities of Mecca and Medina, lest their footprints defile Islam's sacred sites. This is in keeping with Muhammad's statement, "I will expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula and will not leave any but Muslims." (Salih Muslim 19.4366) Mecca and Medina represent the aspirations of the Muslim world, the vision of a quintessential Islamic society: one in which there are no non-Muslims.

In Pakistan and Afghanistan and elsewhere, conversion from Islam to Christianity is punishable by death, in accordance by Muhammad's command. In Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Nigeria and even Obama's beloved Indonesia, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and [all other] non-believers, face harassment and often violent religious persecution carried out by jihadist Muslims who invoke core Islamic texts and teachings to justify their actions.

Islamic bigotry is based on the Qur'an which calls Jews and Christians "the most vile of created beings" (98:6) because "the polytheists are unclean" (9:26). It claims that Jews consider Ezra the Son of God the way Christians

consider Jesus the Son of God (9:30) and that "it is not fitting for Allah to take a son" (19:35). In Islamic theology, Jews and Christians are as much polytheists as are Hindus – and hence just as unclean.

Qur'anic injunctions are to "slay the polytheists wherever you find them" (9:5), to subjugate the People of the Book [Christians and Jews] (9:29) and to cleanse entire regions of their non-Muslim populations, as per Qur'an 8:39 ("fight...until religion is all for Allah").

The transformation of what is today Turkey following its conquest by Muslims in 1453 illustrates the effects of Muslim bigotry. Constantinople, then the second city of Christendom, is now 99.99% Muslim. In Tur-Abdin in southwest Turkey in 1960 there were 150,000 Christians; today there are just over 2,000. The rest have fled in the face of Muslim hostility and harassment. During World War I the Muslim Turks conducted a genocide that led to the murder of a million and a half Christian Armenians.

Since the Turks occupied northern Cyprus in 1974 churches have been despoiled of their icons. They have taken over many churches for secular uses and have even tried to convert a fourth century Christian monastery into a hotel. Christian Cypriots are forbidden to come near the building, much less enter it.

Islamic bigotry is driving Christians out of their ancient homelands all over the Middle East. "A century ago," noted Simon Kent in the Toronto Sun June 2013, "more than 20% of the region's population was Christian....Now estimates put the Christian population in the Middle East at under 5% and sinking rapidly."

Nor is it just the Middle East where the purge is taking place. Hindu activist Bharati Krishna declares: "When Pakistan came into existence in 1947, 24% of the population were Hindus. Now it is just below 2%. What happened to the rest? Majority of them have been mercilessly killed by the Islamic fanatics and the rest forcibly converted to Islam." Krishna adds, "the same happened to Bangladeshi Hindus. The percentage of population in Bangladesh in 1947 (then East Pakistan) was numbered at 31. But with the course of time it has been declined and stationed at nine percent now. Massive religious conversion and ruthless murders of the Hindus were the reason for this decline."

-- David Horowitz Freedom Center, 2013

## 'Get rid of the white kids' say Pakistani parents as Cameron Urges British Values

The head of one of the Birmingham schools at the centre of the 'Trojan Horse' controversy has revealed that parents of Pakistani origin wanted her to "get rid of the white kids" at her school.

Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson, head teacher at Anderton Park Primary School, told the *Sunday Times* that when a small number of white children arrived at her school, which was predominantly Muslim, parents started making a series of racist demands:

"We had kids saying 'What are you playing with the white kid for? What are you playing with the Christians for?' The dad of one of the Pakistani heritage pupils at the school even told me I should 'get rid of the white kids'.

"He said, 'If I was head I would get the white kids and shove them in the corner with white desks and a white teacher and keep them away from the rest of the kids. I told him that what he had said was racist and I was going to write it down. Then he said, 'You should get rid of the white kids, that is what the community would want you to do.'"

She later reported the parent to the police.

The 'Trojan Horse' scandal erupted earlier this year following a series of revelations over hard line Islamist governors trying to force secular schools to adopt strict Islamic practices.

The revelation comes as Prime Minister David Cameron called for every school child to be taught the "British values" enshrined in Magna Carta. Mr Cameron said children from all backgrounds should learn about the document, which is widely credited with paving the way for parliamentary democracy and rule of law.

Magna Carta was forced on King John on 1215 following a revolt by his nobility. John had tried to rule as a despotic, absolute ruler, but his barons humiliated him and forced him to sign the document which limited his power.

-- www.breitbart.com 15 June 2014

## Interview: John Lott Launches Initiative to Facilitate Truthful Reporting about Guns

John Lott, an expert on firearms in society, recently announced that he is launching the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC), which will produce studies on the relationship between crime and guns. Lott ultimately hopes that CPRC's research will equip journalists and

media with accurate statistics and reliable information.

Lott felt compelled to create CPRC after former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg began funneling money into various studies which, in Lott's view, misrepresented facts in order to further the former mayor's own anti-gun agenda.

"Bloomberg and others are spending a great deal of money putting out research that is poorly done and riddled with errors," Lott told Breitbart News. "But they always get massive news coverage. I've done work that's gotten national attention before – but journalists always ask a critic of mine for comments. When Bloomberg releases a study, on the other hand, his critics are almost never asked for comments."

Lott mentioned that Bloomberg's two anti-gun groups – Moms Demand Gun Action for Gun Sense in America and Mayors Against Illegal Guns – touted in February that there have been 44 "mini-Newtowns" since the Sandy Hook school shootings in December 2012.

"The media covered the groups' report ad nauseam," Lott said. Unfortunately for Bloomberg, Lott took a closer look.

"What they included in the list of Newtown-like incidents was ridiculous," Lott said. "They included, for instance, a case of legitimate self defense at Eastern Florida State College, but the incident is classified by Bloomberg's people as being a 'mini-Newtown.'"

Lott said that many cases were "lone suicides." Lott found that in total, 28 people died as a result of the 44 "mini-Newtowns" and 40 percent of the shootings were suicide-related.

Lott's research has irritated many on the left. Shannon Watts, the founder of Moms Demand Action, said of Lott, "He's a researcher who's been proven to come up with faulty data that supports the gun lobby's points of view."

Watts and others with a similar agenda are quick to dismiss Lott. However, he is an experienced economist whose teaching and research career has taken him to prestigious institutions such as Yale Law School and Stanford. He is one of the few scholars working to debunk the reports of anti-gun lobbyists that he considers to be erroneous and fear-mongering.

"Nobody else is really doing this kind of research right now," Lott said. "You have places like the NRA and Gun Owners of America, and they

can certainly be a useful thing – but none of them really deal with hard data. There's an asymmetry because Bloomberg can fund studies and it doesn't bother the media. But if the NRA were to fund someone who did research it would be completely dismissed."

"I want to get a group of academics together who can produce high-quality research on these topics," he said. "We also plan on doing original research, not just responding to what others have done. Many reporters don't understand the facts – if anti-gun groups provide information, the media are usually sympathetic to that narrative."

-- www.breitbart.com 11 May 2014

## Homeland Security Conducts Unannounced School Lockdown Drill

By Paul Joseph Watson

The Department of Homeland Security is expanding its operations by running unannounced school lockdown drills, another sign of the federal agency's encroachment into more areas of Americans' lives.

"On, March 6, a team comprised of ten officials from the DHS, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and the NJ Department of Education's Safety and Security Task Forces visited Glen Ridge High School to conduct an unannounced school lock-down drill," reports Georgette Gilmore.

"The NJ DOE team told us that of all the schools they have visited, GRHS was one of the best," said Superintendent Dr. Mucciolo, confirming that the drills are now becoming commonplace throughout the region....

The DHS has poured over \$34 billion dollars into local police departments, money which has been used to purchase armored vehicles and other equipment normally reserved for policing occupied countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

During public testimony at a Concord City Council meeting in New Hampshire last year, Colonel Peter

Martino, a former Marine Corps Colonel who was stationed in Fallujah, warned that the DHS' role in militarizing domestic law enforcement was a disturbing lunge towards martial law.

"We're building a domestic military," said Martino, adding that police are now "wearing the exact same combat gear that we had in Iraq, only it was a different color."

*Paul Joseph Watson is the editor and writer for Infowars.com and Prison Planet.com. He is the author of Order Out Of Chaos.*

-- dcclthesline.com March 15, 2014

## Latest Example of Mission Creep as Federal Policing Expands

By Candice Bernd

Why does the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) need .40 caliber submachine guns?

USDA spokespeople explained to Truthout that a 1978 law authorizes OIG Special Agents to make arrests, execute warrants and carry firearms. From 2012 to March of this year, USDA OIG investigations have obtained more than 1,350 convictions.

And the Agriculture Department isn't the only federal agency seeking ammunition in recent months.

The Social Security Administration put in a request for 174,000 rounds of hollow-point bullets. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration requested 46,000 rounds.

The ammunition purchases are to supply dozens of federal agencies' Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams.

No one knows exactly how many criminal provisions are scattered throughout the federal code, but some legal experts estimate that the number may be as high as 300,000, with hundreds more added every year.

"We've seen this reaction from Congress that every problem deserves a criminal remedy," said Tiffany Joslyn, counsel at the National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL).

Joslyn contended that the creation of these criminal statutes

serves only to convolute the federal code with unnecessary criminalization of offenses that really should be punishable by civil fines.

It's a problem that is only beginning to be addressed by lawmakers: The Over-Criminalization Task Force within the House Judiciary Committee met for the first time last year. The task force has held hearings on issues like the erasure of the criminal intent requirement in federal criminal law (many federal criminal laws lack the *mens rea* (guilty mind) requirement by which prosecutors must prove a defendant intended to break the law), the redundancy of state law in the federal code, mass incarceration, mandatory minimum sentences and widespread regulatory criminalization.

The task force is set to have a hearing this month on the legal barriers faced by those convicted, generalized discrimination and social stigma. The NACDL recently released a lengthy report on the subject.

The federal practices have paralleled the trend of increased militarization across local police departments, with officers acquiring military-grade weaponry and armor.

Jeffrey Bumgarner, a professor of government at Minnesota State University, said the expansion of federal regulatory law into criminal law was a troubling trend and one that conservatives and progressives should agree on: "Progressives tend to be generally suspicious and wary of police power, and conservatives tend to be wary and suspicious of federal power, and so there's a lot for a lot of people to be concerned about."

As the USDA begins to acquire its own military weaponry and other federal agencies stock up on hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition, experts and advocates emphasize that it's still possible to turn this trend around

"If there were ever a time to stop this trend, that time is now," said Joslyn. "Aggressive police tactics, over-criminalization, over-incarceration, all of that is now being called into question."

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